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VOL. 1.

MERIDEN, KAN., SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 1889.

## Shall We Abandon the Old Parties?

Written for the Kansas Farmer of Aug. 7.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER:—I agree fully with you that "this question ought to be discussed in the light of reason," or on business principles, not in any way partisan. Having from my first vote in 1844, down to my last in 1888 been battling for reform and within the lines of political organizations, I feel the more free to speak, caring more for the good of the masses than for party lines or organizations.

Organization and agitation is the only hope left for the toiling and producing classes. Farmers' organization it is as should be for a special purpose, that the main feature for improving the condition of farmers, whatever they may be. The only question to be decided then is, will a farmers' organization accomplish more—be more certain of, and in the line of, relief from our present surroundings in a separate party, or can the force of numbers, earnestness and devotion to our interests be made more effectual with in the political parties as organized, however strong or weak? Belonging to no local organization of any kind, I feel no embarrassment or bias of a partisan nature.

The farmers relief must come from law; laws are made by men elected by votes; votes are furnished and supplied by farmers. The transportation of farm products, the land, piracy in shape of organized trusts and combines are the essential points of attacks by legislation either State or national; therefore they may be properly termed political. How shall they be met? By farmers' alliances, agricultural societies, farmers' institutes or grange? These are generally manipulated by politicians, whenever there is a prospective fee or a salary. These have generally been made up or represented by delegates appointed by those in power, for political purposes only. They have too often passed milk and water resolutions on some essential points, to be read and forgotten. This is just what the combines feeding at the farmers' crib want. Thus it has been in Kansas. Meantime this noise rears its head; nor is there the slightest prospect of relief from this source as heretofore conducted. Then it seems fair to ask—can these various auxiliaries be made to recommend attention at the law making and remain non-political? In any way they can. These various auxiliaries can by frequent and formal meetings and earnest and decided expressions on these special points of American, inject into the old parties a trembling that will produce

with great force claimed that the reform advocated by the Greenbackers and Union Labor parties could have been made more effectual and brought relief quicker, with the same effort and agitation, within the old parties. The abolitionists, out of which came the Republican party thought differently. When any new political organization becomes formidable and able to hold a balance of power, it becomes the rallying point for every mountebank and charlatan in the old parties. They seek to control its councils for personal ends, get possession of the machinery only to destroy. The politicians are always for the doctrines of the majority or the controlling element in the party. In Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island they are anti-prohibition, because the saloons dominate and are all-powerful on election day; in Kansas these creatures blister their tongues crying "I am a prohibitionist"—forced thus to do by the power of votes. This was patent in the last Legislature. Notwithstanding the consummate "shystering" on the interest and combine questions, the railroad law of 1883 was forced through the senate by the overwhelming power of public opinion, although the railroad management held full possession of that body until the last few days of the fight.

There are some of the thoughts favorable to the conclusions of the KANSAS FARMER. The people want relief and want it now; they must have it or go to the wall as matters now confront them. Again, I agree with the FARMER that any attempt at separate political organization will bring to the front all the leading political isms of the several parties in existence. Each member will seek to imprint his parties leading features on the new party, and if successful, go out of the meeting singing their own *te deum*, because the love of old parties is stronger than the desire for bettering the farmers' condition. Yet separate orders like the grange, once so powerful in parties that every lawyer and professional politician had "hayseed in his hair," went down and died, though claiming to be non-political. If, then the alliance will adopt a code of principles demanding relief by law either State or national and follow them up to the primaries, conventions and hall of the law making power, relief will come and that speedily and without any political organization. If this course is vigorously pursued and fails, then I am prepared to prove that the only organization that can bring relief is a political one. To discuss the best methods of farm management is fruitless if the laws are against us, allowing capital to rob the entire earnings of the farmer. What

the country is the continual daily, monthly and yearly contraction of the circulating medium, carrying down the prices of land, labor and every product the farmer has to sell, and the want of law to control these trusts and combines that are able to fix the highest price for every article the farmer buys. Therefore, if the alliance is square on the money volume, transportation, combines and pools, I am for it without separate political organization; if not, I am against it.

FARMER.

## Throw Away His Crutches.

FT. WAYNE, Ind., August 13.—Yesterday afternoon Dr. Wm. H. Myers, one of the most eminent surgeons of the state, tested the Brown-Sequard elixir on Michael Kenney, of Columbia City. The patient was so seriously afflicted with rheumatism that he was unable to walk without the aid of crutches. In less than an hour, through the stimulating effects of the treatment, Kenney threw away his crutches and walked out of a store.

## A Remarkable Discovery in Colorado.

DENVER, August 12.—A most remarkable story reached here yesterday from Aspen, Col., regarding an unexpected find in one of the principal mines on the Aspen mountain. Last Thursday night, as the story goes, the night shift in the Minnie mine put in two thirty inch holes in the breast of 500 feet level and fired the blast just before leaving for the surface. On returning to the mine it was found that two holes had broken into a cave, the extent of which they proceeded to explore. Going in a few feet they found the walls covered with chrysalized lime and lead that glittered like diamonds. Here and there little stalactites hung from the ceiling. The lime formation resembled lace and frieze work of wondrous beauty. The cave had a descent of about twenty degrees and they found rooms and chambers grand beyond description. They had entered about 200 feet when they found a flint ax. A little further was a pool of fresh water and a strong current of fresh air was felt. Further on a chamber was discovered covered with a brownish muck that was sticky. Gilfillan, who was in the lead, suddenly stopped and said: "There sits a boy." Sure enough there sat a human form. The head was resting on the knees and the arms were drawn around the legs, Indian fashion. A stone bowl and an ax were found beside the figure. The body was well preserved, but in trying to lift it one arm broke off. Five other bodies in different attitudes were found in the chamber, but when disturbed they crumbled. One man was braced with the loss of arms another discovery has caused a graver.

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